

Library

Borough of Morpeth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1958





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29804498>

1958.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1958.

The vital statistics can be considered very satisfactory. The birth rate rose from 18.26 per 1,000 of the population in 1957 to 20.82 in 1958, while the corresponding rate in England and Wales was 17.1. The death rate declined from 11.53 per 1,000 in 1957 to 10.01 in 1958, while the national death rate was 11.7.

There were 5 deaths in infants under 1 year which gave an infantile mortality rate of 22.03 per 1,000 live births, which is almost the same as the rate for England and Wales. The still birth rate at 8.73 per 1,000 live and still births was very low.

Only 3 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, half the number notified in 1957 and one quarter of that notified in 1956. There was again one death from this disease while deaths from malignant neoplasms again declined, being 20 in number in 1958 compared with 26 in 1957.

Notifications of infectious diseases were few in number and although this probably does not give a true picture of the incidence of these diseases, it can be said that there was no major outbreak of serious illness.

There is no event of outstanding importance to report but the slum clearance programme continued to make excellent progress, with 4 Clearance Areas confirmed. involving 35 houses and action taken in respect of another 16 individual unfit houses.

I should like to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their efficient and conscientious work and for all the assistance they have so readily afforded me. I appreciate, too, the co-operation received from other departments and the consideration shown me by members of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. MCGREGOR. M.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.
Borough of Morpeth.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR.
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer.

KATHLEEN DICK.
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.

FRANK K. PERKINS.
M.I.M. & C.E. M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector (Meat)

J. G. SIMPSON.
M.A.P.H.I.

Officers of the Medical Officer.

146, Station Road, Ashington.

Telephone.

Ashington 2287.

Offices of the Public Health Inspector.

36, Bridge Street, Morpeth.

Telephone.

Morpeth 36.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The population again increased in 1958, this time by 290, to a total of 11,340, according to the Registrar General's estimate at mid-year.

Private enterprise provided 139 new houses during the year, and to this, the increase in population can, no doubt, be largely attributed. Morpeth is a pleasant market town set in attractive surroundings and, as yet, there appears to be no shortage of persons wishing to buy houses and become residents in the Borough.

As the amount of vehicular traffic steadily increases on the Great North Road the need for a by-pass becomes ever more apparent.

Area in Acres.....	2,213
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1958.....	11,340
Rateable Value.....	£128,259
One Penny Rate produces.....	£487
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958).....	3,350

VITAL STATISTICS. (The figures in brackets are the figures for England and Wales.)

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate..	116	98	214
Illegitimate.	9	4	13
Totals	<u>125</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>227</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...20.02
 Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.04).....20.82(17.1)

Still Births.

Legitimate.	1	1	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.....8.73(21.6)
 Rate per 1,000 of the population.....0.18

DEATHS.

Total 183 Male 90 Female 93

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population. 16.14
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.72) 10.01(11.7)
 Deaths from Paerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion. NIL. (0.43)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births. 22.03(22.5)
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.36
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births NIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1958.

4.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 month	1-3 mnths	4-6 mnths	7-9 mnths	10-12 mnths	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Peritonitis.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro-enteritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals.....	1	1	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	5

The following table. shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years:-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Infantile deaths under 1 year.	10	7	5	7	3	8	4	7	2	5
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births.	54.35.	34.48	23.81	33.49	15.79	38.10	19.51	34.48	10.31	22.03

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

5.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1958

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1 Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-
2 Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3 Syphilitic Disease	-	2
4 Diphtheria	-	-
5 Whooping Cough	-	-
6 Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8 Measles	-	-
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
10 Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	-
11 Malignant Neoplasm Lung and Bronchus	3	-
12 Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	-
13 Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	-
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	7
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
16 Diabetes	-	1
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	19
18 Coronary Disease Angina	13	6
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	4
20 Other Heart Diseases	33	29
21 Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2
22 Influenza	-	2
23 Pneumonia	4	2
24 Bronchitis	2	-
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31 Congenital Malformations	1	-
32 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	9	14
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
34 All other accidents	2	2
35 Suicide	-	-
36 Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	<u>90</u>	<u>93</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1958

	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of total</u>
	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	89	48.63
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	25	13.66
Malignant Neoplasms	20	10.93
	<u>134</u>	<u>73.22</u>

SECTION B.
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

6.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	7	not available
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	2	2
School Medical Officer	" " " " " "	3	5
School Medical Officer	Swabs for Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	-	7
General Practitioners	" " " "	2	2
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	-	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincent's Organisms	-	1
School Medical Officer	" " " "	1	-
Medical Officer of Health	Urine for pathogenic organisms	-	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	7	6

2 Sensitivity Tests were carried out

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the local health authority. Six drivers are employed at the Morpeth Depot where there are three ambulances and a sitting case car.

The area served includes the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the Morpeth Rural District and part of the Castle Ward Rural District.

Nursing in the Home.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

Three nurses are stationed in Morpeth. Their work includes both general nursing and midwifery, and they serve the Borough and the adjacent parts of the Morpeth Rural District.

Maternal and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Health Centre, in Gashouse Lane. The services include Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

A Child Welfare Centre is held once a month at Morpeth Common Camp.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water.

Morpeth Borough obtains its supply of drinking water partly from the Council owned boreholes at Gubcon and Tranwell, and partly from Tynemouth water undertaking.

The borehole supply is pumped into storage reservoirs followed by filtration and chlorination before passing into the distributing mains and mixing with the Tynemouth supply.

The supply during the year was sufficient for all demands made upon it and the quality generally was satisfactory.

During the year the whole of the pumping, filtration and chlorinating plant was overhauled, and the water mains flushed at intervals. A new protective fence was provided around the storage reservoirs, and boundary hedges and grass embankments were cut. Feeder runways were cleaned out and adjoining fences repaired. A new protective cover was provided to the service reservoir and all buildings were repaired and painted.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Thirty six samples of drinking water were obtained from various parts of the Borough, and taken to the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for bacteriological examination.

Routine sampling during the first 8 months of the year produced completely satisfactory results but further samples in September were less satisfactory and one in October produced a very bad result indeed. Investigation failed to detect any obvious source of contamination but, as the Water Engineer of Tynemouth Corporation reported that samples from his supply were satisfactory it appeared that the Borough supply must be at fault. This supply was, therefore, cut off entirely, the mains were flushed out, the underground chamber and filter beds were thoroughly cleaned and the chlorinating plant was overhauled and checked. The cause of the unsatisfactory samples was not discovered but 12 samples taken, subsequently were all entirely satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Water.

Three samples of drinking water were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. Two of the samples were in connection with the National Geological Survey of water supplies to determine the Fluoride content of the water.

Report on Sample No. 1.

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity as judged by chemical standards and the fact that it is chlorinated should dispose of any bacteria present.

The water is clear and it is free from odour and taste. The water is very distinctly coloured but this is in no way detrimental to health.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public supply.

(signed) W. Gordon Carey.

Samples 2 and 3 were submitted to the public analyst for chemical analysis. The analyst's reports are as follows:

Chemical Results.	Sample No. 1.	Sample No. 2.
<u>Physical Examination.</u>		
(a) Temperature at Source	40°F	45°F
Colour	Pale orange yellow	Ex. pale yellow
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory.
Smell	-do-	-do-
<u>(b) General Chemical Examination.</u>		
Reaction P. H.	7.0	7.4
<u>Parts per million.</u>		
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO ₂	2.5	5.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N.	0.05	NONE
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N.	0.05	NONE
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N.	0.05	0.05
Nitric Nitrogen, as N.	0.40	0.60
Hardness (E.D.T.A. Test) as CaCO ₃	135.0	232.5
Temporary	102.5	205.0
Permanent	32.5	27.5
Permanganate figure (4 hours at 80°F) as O	7.0	0.3
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	102.5	205.0
Total Solids.	230.0	325.0
<u>(c) Mineral Analysis</u>		
Calcium as Ca	40.6	72.8
Magnesium as Mg.	8.1	12.1
Sodium as Na.	12.3	23.0
Carbonate as CO ₃	61.5	123.0
Chloride as Cl	17.8	23.1
Sulphate as SO ₄	31.2	41.2
Nitrate as NO ₃	1.8	1.8
Iron	0.3	0.3
Fluoride as F	0.05	0.10

Sample No 2 was taken from Tranwell supply, and Sample No 3 from Gubeon supply.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31st December, 1958.

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>HOUSING.</u>							
Structural defects.	355	81	18	81	-	-	-
Defective Food Store	28	Slum	Clearance	Properties.			
Dampness	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>WATER SUPPLY.</u>							
Insufficient	28	Slum	Clearance	Properties.			
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>							
Insufficient	28	Slum	Clearance	Programme.			
Defective.	4	4	4	4	-	-	-
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>							
Insufficient	6	6	2	6	-	-	-
Defective	28	Slum	Clearance	Properties.			
<u>GENERAL.</u>							
Shops (Shops Acts)	10	1	-	1	-	-	-
Food Premises	408	3	-	3	-	-	-
Milk Distributors	50	1	-	1	-	-	-
Slaughter Houses	696	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans etc.,	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals.	41	1	-	1	-	-	-
Insanitary ashpits & bins	66	66	3	66	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS...	1785	166	27	166	-	-	-

Complaints.

10.

Two hundred and twenty three complaints were recorded during the year all of which were dealt with. No statutory action was resorted to as all repairs to properties were done by the owners after informal approach, by the Public Health Inspector. There was some reduction in the number of complaints of property defects which is probably a reflection of the Council's progressive slum clearance programme.

Other Visits and Inspections under the Public Health Act. 1936.

Drainage Works.	72
Inspections and testing of drains.	502
Sewage disposal works.	49
Licensed premises.	21
Refuse disposal grounds.	51
Public conveniences.	100
Disinfections.	5
Disinfestations.	31
Housing sites.	79
Markets .	50
Offices .	6
Schools.	10
Rivers and streams.	13
Court yards and passages used jointly.	41
Places of public entertainment.	12

Smoke Abatement.

There was only one case of excessive emission of industrial smoke recorded during the year. The Clean Air Act came into force during the year, but was not implemented in the Borough.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

There were 27 complaints of insect pests during the year. These were all successfully dealt with. The following table shows the species encountered.

<u>Species.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Bed Bugs	4
Cockroaches	16
Fleas	1
Silverfish	2
Woodworm	4
	<u>27</u>

Pet Animals Act.

Two licenses to keep a pet shop were issued at the beginning of the year. The premises were periodically inspected and conditions found generally satisfactory. Close liason is maintained between the Public Health Inspector and the local inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A. on matters appertaining to the keeping and sale of domestic pets.

Rag Flock Act. 1951.

There are now no premises dealing with rag flock in the Borough register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. 1949.

Destruction of rats and mice was given due attention throughout the year. Many premises were successfully treated and the Borough surveyed from time to time for any infestations. Deuchar Park refuse tip continued to make heavy demands upon the time of the department, many treatments being done over the year.

The sewerage system was also dealt with in accordance with grant requirements.

The following table shows some details of work done under the act:--

SURFACE TREATMENT.					
	Local Authority Council Property.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural Business Property. Premises.		TOTAL.
Inspections.	34	1113	622	9	1778
Treatments	3	49	9	-	61
Treatments by occupiers	1	-	-	2	3
Notices served	-	-	1	-	1
Notices complied with	-	-	1	-	1

Destruction of Moles.

The destruction of moles is carried out by a specialist in this work, retained by the Council.

Several sporadic outbreaks in various parts of the Borough were promptly dealt with.

Despatch of Domestic Animals.

During the year, nine domestic pet animals were dealt with by the Health Department, some at the request of their owners and some at the request of the Police Authority.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage systems of the Borough were still further extended during the year by the rapid development of Spelvit Lane and Kirkhill estates.

Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing.

Refuse is collected daily by direct labour and deposited at Deuchar Park tipping site. The Churchburn which flows centrally through the tip was piped for a further fifty yards to accommodate the rapidly advancing tipping. Since last year a further area has been levelled and prepared for grass sowing.

Street cleansing is also done by direct labour. The litter problem appears to have been somewhat easier than in previous years. A little extra trouble from litter is experienced during certain seasons when day trippers visit the town. The over-all picture however, is more encouraging and the placing of additional litter receptacles at noted troublesome spots will, it is hoped have some effect.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck and other streams flowing through the Borough were periodically inspected for pollution or nuisance. Several removals of rubbish and debris were done during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Swimming Baths.

12.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools.

There are five Primary Schools, one Secondary School, one Grammar School for boys, one High School for Girls and one Commercial College for boys and girls in the Borough. Several inspections were made during the year with particular attention to sanitary conveniences and cooking kitchens. The standard, generally is good. One school is to have the sanitary conveniences for boys modernised.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of			
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.	Number on Register.
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	16	-	-	4
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	19	-	-	42
3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	-	-	2
Totals....	37	-	-	48

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred. To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness.	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outwork).	1	1	-	-	-
Totals...	4	4	-	-	-

SECTION D.

14.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Houses completed during the year.

	58
(a) By Local Authority.	40
(b) By other bodies or persons	139

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	6
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	1
3. Houses closed, not demolished	20
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in the above	NIL.

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

1. By informal action	22
2. By owners, following statutory notice	NIL
3. By local authority in default of owners	NIL
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	NIL.

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation	NIL
---	-----

Improvement Grants, Housing Act. 1949.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	7
2. Applications rejected	NIL
3. Applications approved	7
4. Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme.	103
5. Approximate average grant approved per house	£75

Slum Clearance.

Good progress was made in 1958 with the Council's Slum Clearance programme. Four Clearance Areas involving thirty five houses were dealt with. An objection was lodged in respect of one area and a Public Inquiry was held but all the areas were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. One Demolition Order was made on an individual unfit house and Closing Orders were made in respect of another 16 houses. This gives a total of 52 houses on which action was taken during the year.

In addition, 10 families were rehoused from the Common Camp and the empty huts were demolished.

Five of the houses, which were the subjects of Closing Orders, were retained by the owners for business purposes.

Inspection and supervision of Food.Milk Supply.

Upon the introduction of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) order 1958 all milk sold in the Borough became designated milk, that is, Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. At the end of the year there were twelve distributors licensed for dealing in such milk, on the Borough register.

All distributors' premises were periodically inspected and found satisfactory. Cleansing and decorating were done on request of the Public Health Inspector where necessary.

Six samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and testing for processing. Four satisfied the test and two narrowly failed the test.

Ice Cream Regulations.

There are thirty seven premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice-cream. Only one vendor manufactures ice cream and this is of the "cold mix" type. All premises were regularly inspected and no contraventions of the regulations found. One other vendor from outside the Borough, but permanently trading in the town from a stall, sells loose heat-treated ice-cream. All others sell wrapped ice-cream

Meat Inspection.

Inspection of meat at the slaughter houses and butchers' shops was given due attention during the year. There was some increase on the number of animals slaughtered as compared with 1957. Those dealt with during 1958 were as follows:-

Cattle.	1599
Sheep	5080
Pigs	1914
Calves	40
Total	<u>8,633</u>

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exc. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
Number killed	1584	15	40	5080	1914
Number inspected	1584	15	40	5080	1914

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.

Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	15	2
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	110	1	-	102	87
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	6.9%	6.6%	-	2.3%	4.7%

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	22	5	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	1.38%	33%	-	-	-

Cysticercosis.

Carcases, some part, or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The weight of meat, organs and offals condemned and surrendered during the year was:- 19 tons 4 cwts 1 qutr 0 st 8 lbs. 16.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen.

During the year under review the slaughterhouses at Staithes Lane, owned by the Council were given every attention to keep them in efficient working order. The entire premises were redecorated internally and externally a great deal of repair work was done. A notable improvement was the adoption of the boiler room to accommodate pig slaughtering, for which a separate compartment was not previously available, to the tenant butchers.

Slaughtering is carried on daily including certain Sundays when necessary owing to holidays and Christmas trade.

A recent change in the administration of slaughterhouses is that they are now classed as factories under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, and are now subject to the provisions and regulations of the Factories Acts 1937-1948, and inspections by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Thirteen slaughtermen's licences were renewed and four new licences were approved by the Council. The bulk of the slaughtering, however is done by two slaughtermen engaged by the butchers on a per-capita basis, while one is employed as a full-time slaughterman.

Food Premises. Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56.

There are one hundred and forty eight food premises on the Borough shops register. Many inspections were made during the year and only two instances arose where the inspector asked for remedial works, which were promptly done. The general standard of food shops in the Borough is highly satisfactory.

Educational Activity (Food)

Education in food hygiene followed the same pattern as in previous years. Many visits were made by the inspector and talks and consultations held in a friendly atmosphere, with mutual benefit. Poster displays were maintained in various parts of the Borough. There is growing evidence of the value of this form of publicity in the ready response of traders to any reasonable suggestions made to them in connection with hygienic practices in food handling.

Food Inspection.

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were inspected, condemned and destroyed.

Commodity.	Quantity	Reason for Condemnation.	Weight.	
			lbs.	ozs.
Beef	Portion	Bone Taint	109	0
Corned Beef	4 tins	Decomposition	24	-
Gammon	1 tin	Malodorous	14	8
Ham (tinned)	11 tins	Mould-decomposition	79	9
Ham	Portion	Malodorous	2	10
Luncheon Meat	2 tins	Blown Tins	4	-
Ox Tongue	2 tins	Decomposition	12	-
Pork	5 tins	Putrefaction	33	2
Peaches	4 tins	Leaky tins	12	-
Pears	13 tins	Leaky tins	22	-
Pineapples	15 tins	Leaky tins	13	4
Turkey	one	Decomposition	15	4
Total....			331	5

All condemned food was disposed of either by incineration or deep burial, or processed into fertilisers.

Food removed for processing was coloured by a conspicuous vegetable dye (before removal) as a safeguard against its improper use.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years.	15 - 24 years.	25 - 34 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	Age unknown.	TOTAL.
Whooping Cough.	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total...	-	1	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	8

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

No epidemic of notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year and it will be seen from the above table that notifications were few in number.

Diphtheria

No case of this disease has occurred in the past ten years and has caused no deaths during the past 12 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 128, pre-school children completed a course of primary injections and 35 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31.12.58 it was estimated that the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.....	18.75%
Children aged 1 - 4 years.....	90.34%
Children aged 5 - 14 years.....	73.18%
All children under 15 years.....	72.8%

While these figures are quite satisfactory, some concern is felt about the future. Owing to the large amount of time taken up with anti-polio-myelitis vaccination it was impossible to visit any schools in the area to carry out diphtheria immunisation and this situation is likely to persist for a considerable time, especially if additional age-groups become eligible for vaccination and more injections are recommended.

In these circumstances the immunity indices for school children are certain to fall and this might lead to the reappearance of Diphtheria in the community.

Fortunately most infants and young children are still being immunised at the Child Welfare Centres or by the family doctors.

The demand for vaccination increased greatly in 1958 and, with the extension of the scheme to additional age groups, very large numbers registered for vaccination. Separate figures are not available for the Borough, but the figures for the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

Between 1st December 1956 and 31st December 1957, 3,300 children completed the primary course of two injections but in 1958, 8,186 persons in all groups completed the primary course and 3,407 children received a third injection.

This involved a tremendous amount of organisation and work and, as already mentioned, inevitably interfered with the diphtheria immunisation campaign. If, however, the protection provided by vaccination is effective in preventing the tragic results of paralytic polionyelitis the campaign will be worth while.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1958.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES					DEATHS.				
	Resp.		Non-resp.		TOTAL	Resp.		Non-resp.		TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
75 years & over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	2	1	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	1

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population.. 0.088

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population

in England and Wales..... 0.089

SITE.	MALES.					FEMALES.					TOTAL.
	15 - 24 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	TOTAL.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	
Retina	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maxillary Antrum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronchus	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Stomach	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pancreas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Colon	1	1	2	1	1	5	1	1	2	1	3
Ovary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bladder	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pelvis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Haematopoietic System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unknown	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL.....	1	2	4	4	2	13	1	3	3	1	7

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	1.76
Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus	
per 1,000	0.26
Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus	
in England and Wales.....	0.439
Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites.....	1.5
Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites in	
England and Wales.....	1.685

